

Register results

The following actions have been taken by Federal agencies. They were previously summarized by CONSUMER REGISTER as proposals. The extent of consumer comment is reported when such information is available.

- **Housing & Urban Development Dept.** (HUD) has adopted amendments to its mobile home standards. HUD received 18 comments on the proposed amendments from consumers, manufacturers, suppliers, trade associations & government agencies. Amendments become effective June 15. Complete standards, including amendments, were published in Dec. 18, 1975, issue of *Federal Register*. Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 18, 1975, page 58752; Nov. 11, 1975, page 52709, Sept. 2, 1975, page 40261. CONSUMER REGISTER: Dec. 1, Sept. 15 & July 15, 1975.

- **Federal Trade Commission** (FTC) has issued 3 rules under the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act. They are summarized in this issue of CONSUMER NEWS. Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 31, 1975, page 60168; July 16, 1975, page 29892. CONSUMER NEWS: Feb. 1, 1975. CONSUMER REGISTER: Aug. 15, 1975.

- **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) is establishing national interim standards on drinking water. The standards, which will become effective June 24, 1977, will regulate the purity of the nation's drinking water. Standards do not now include regulations for limiting organic chemicals because EPA needs more time to study health effects of those chemicals. EPA has considered the inflationary impact of the standards & says that most consumers will "not be significantly affected by cost increases, especially consumers served by large water systems. Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 24, 1975, page 59566; March 14, 1975, page 11989. CONSUMER REGISTER: April 15, 1975.

Drug prices

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has amended its regulations to require druggists who advertise prescription drug prices to follow a prescribed format for such advertising.

FDA points out that the new regulations do not require public posting or advertising of prescription drug prices by anyone—"They are intended to assure that whenever such advertising does occur that the consumer receives full, fair & comparative information." (Thirteen states require posting of prescription drug prices in retail pharmacies, & 2 other states allow it. They all permit advertising of prices in newspapers or on radio & television. Twenty-four states have laws prohibiting such advertising.)

Beginning Jan. 19, the following information will be required in price lists or advertisements:

- Brand name & generic name of drug.
- Strength (for example, 100 milligrams).
- Dosage form (for example, tablets).
- Price charged for a specific quantity of the drug.

Consumers might not see the information in all advertising immediately because FDA is permitting the use of existing price lists & advertising until the next printing, or for one year, whichever is sooner.

All charges to the consumer must be stated, including cost of drug, druggist's professional fee, if any, & handling & mailing costs, if any.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 18, 1975, page 58794.

Vinyl chloride

Feb. 23 is deadline for comments on **Environmental Protection Agency's** (EPA) proposal to limit air emissions of vinyl chloride from all existing & new plants that make vinyl chloride. Proposed standards, which would reduce vinyl chloride emissions by more than 90%, are to protect the public from atmospheric exposures of vinyl chloride.

Labor Dept's Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has already set health safety standards for workers whose jobs expose them to vinyl chloride [CONSUMER REGISTER: Nov. 1, 1974].

The Federal Government became worried about vinyl chloride early in 1974 when B.F. Goodrich Chemical Co. reported that several of its employees had died from angiosarcoma of the liver (a rare form of cancer) & that these deaths may have been related to occupational exposure to vinyl chloride gas. As of June 1975, **National Cancer Institute** had confirmed 27 cases of angiosarcoma among vinyl chloride workers. As a result of the deaths, EPA, **Food & Drug Administration** (FDA) & **Consumer Product Safety Commission** (CPSC) banned the use of vinyl chloride in drugs & cosmetics, pesticides & household aerosol products.

Vinyl chloride is the fourth substance that EPA has designated as a "hazardous air pollutant." Others are asbestos, beryllium & mercury.

EPA has considered the inflationary impact of these proposed rules: It estimates that total costs to consumers for vinyl chloride products would increase 4.5%.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 24, 1975, page 59532. Send comments to Don R. Goodwin (MD013), Director, Emissions Standards & Engineering Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.

Vinyl chloride hearings

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has scheduled a public hearing on the proposed hazardous emission standards [see vinyl chloride summary]. Hearing will be held 9 a.m. Feb. 3 in Room 3305, Environmental Protection Agency, Waterside Mall, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 31, 1975, page 60079. For additional information, write to Robert Perman, Office of Air & Waste Management, Environment Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460.

Bus service (continued)

March 8 is deadline for comments on **Interstate Commerce Commission's** (ICC) proposal to improve bus service. National Association of Motor Bus Owners & National Bus Traffic Association Inc. asked for more time.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 29, 1975, page 59604; Nov. 7, 1975, page 52063; July 17, 1974, page 30134. **CONSUMER REGISTER**: Dec. 15, 1975 & Aug. 15, 1975. Send comments to Secretary, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423.

Hearing aids (continued)

Feb. 27 is new deadline for comments on **Federal Trade Commission's** (FTC) proposal to regulate the hearing aid industry. In addition, FTC has set public hearing dates on the proposal as follows:

WASHINGTON

9:45 a.m. April 12
Federal Trade Commission Bldg., Room 332
6th & Pennsylvania Ave., NW

To speak, write or call (before March 22) Steven D. Newburg-Rinn, Bureau of Consumer Protection, National Advertising Division, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580. Telephone: 202-724-1483

CHICAGO

9:45 a.m. June 7
John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, Room 347 A-B
230 S. Dearborn St.

To speak, write or call (before May 17) Richard J. Toman, Federal Trade Commission, Suite 1437, 55 E. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60603. Telephone: 312-353-4430

SAN FRANCISCO

9:45 a.m. Aug 2
Federal Bldg., Room 12138
450 Golden Gate Ave.

To speak, write or call (before July 12) Fred Austin, Federal Trade Commission, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102. Telephone: 415-556-1270.

For a complete summary of the proposed rule as well as FTC's request for consumer comments in specific areas, see **CONSUMER REGISTER**: Aug. 15, 1975.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 20, 1975, page 59746; June 24, 1975, page 26646. **CONSUMER REGISTER**: Aug. 15, 1975. Send comments to G. Martin Shepherd, Presiding Officer, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580. Identify comments as "Hearing Aid Industry Comment."

Turtles (continued)

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has denied a Dec. 11, 1973, petition from Consumers Union asking that the sale of pet turtles be banned. Since **Food & Drug Administration** (FDA) has already banned the sale & distribution of small turtles & turtle eggs, CPSC concludes there is no reason to take further action under a section of the Consumer Product Safety Act—the section giving CPSC authority to ban hazardous products.

(Sale of turtles & turtle eggs has been banned since the middle of last year because FDA says they carry salmonella bacteria—& certification requirements for shipping disease-free turtles have not prevented the spread of the disease.)

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 31, 1975, page 60108; May 23, 1975, page 22543; May 28, 1974 page 18463. **Consumer Register**: July 1, 1975, July 1, 1974.

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciaccio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, & it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by **Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration**. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$50 a year & may be ordered from **Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office**, Washington, DC 20402. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal Agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front & back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)**.

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) _____

by (name of agency) _____

published in *Federal Register* on (date) _____ on (page) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Rate Register Natural gas

On Dec. 31, **Federal Power Commission (FPC)** set a uniform national base ceiling rate of 23½¢ per 28.3 cubic meters (thousand cubic feet) of natural gas. This price is for "old" gas (gas that comes from wells that were producing before Jan. 1, 1973). This price will be increased to 20½¢ on July 1. "New" gas went up to 52¢ per thousand cubic feet from 51¢.

FPC said the price adjustment for "old" gas will "provide an incentive for increased gas supply & will make more gas available to the interstate market at a lower cost than the cost of the substitute fuels that are now being used because of the shortage" & "...will add a further inducement for consumers to conserve their use of gas to the fullest practical extent."

Buses

• On Jan. 6, **Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)** approved plans of Continental Trailways Inc. & Greyhound Bus Lines to offer consumers fare reductions amounting to almost 50% if they begin travel on Tuesdays, a traditionally slow travel day. At present, the plan is good for the month of January. Although all travel must begin on a Tuesday, return trips may begin any day of the week.

Freight

• **Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)** has denied a request for a 5% general freight rate increase by United Parcel Service (UPS) because 2 shipping customers of UPS filed a protest with ICC. ICC will hold hearings & then announce its decision.

(Continued next page)

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Rate Register

(continued)

UPS is a private shipper of small packages that has been in business since 1907. It started out by having contracts with retail stores in large cities. Since 1950 it has been delivering & picking up packages all over continental U.S. The cost of mailing the package is computed by weight & zone. Packages may weigh no more than 22.7 kilograms (50 pounds) & have a combined length & girth of 2.74 meters (108 inches).

Mail

• On Dec. 31, **Postal Service (PS)** put into effect new "temporary" mail rates that, among other increases, raised the cost of first class postage to 13¢ for 28 grams (one ounce). An appellate court overturned an injunction that resulted in delaying the increases for 2 days because a Federal judge said they were illegal. [RATE REGISTER: Jan. 1.] However, increased special service fees, such as special delivery charges—also declared illegal by the Federal judge—did not go into effect on Jan. 3. These increases will not go into effect until a full hearing on the matter.

Planes

• **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** has approved United Airlines' request for an "all-purpose" excursion fare [RATE REGISTER: Dec. 15] to go into effect Feb. 1. United is discontinuing most of its other discount plans on April 30. New fares are restricted to 25% of the coach fares on any flight; travelers in the other seats must pay full fare. The cost will be 20% to 25% less than coach fares, & passengers must buy their tickets 14 days in advance & be away 7 to 30 days.

• **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** denied Northwest Airlines' request to offer a similar "capacity-controlled" fare (limited to 35% of coach seats) going to Florida. CAB said Northwest should not try out the new fares during the busy Florida season when regular-fare travel would be diverted to the cheaper fares.

• **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** approved Eastern Airlines' proposal to offer 30% discount fares on routes leaving 26 northern & midwestern cities for 8 Florida cities (hotel & other ground accommodations would be involved in these fares). CAB did approve a 35% discount for trips originating in Florida 25 northern cities without ground accommodations—after Eastern made the new fares more limiting. New fares begin today & continue until Dec. 17.

• **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** approved Allegheny Airlines' request for small increases on designated short trips.

• United Airlines has joined Trans-World Airways, Eastern Airlines & American Airlines in asking **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** to approve a 1% increase in domestic air fares beginning Feb. 1.

